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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

Please cancel claims 1 through 13 without prejudice and replace with a new set of claims listed below:

14. A method of authorizing an electronic device to act as a representative of a certifying authority (CA), comprising:
implementing in the electronic device a document issuing policy of the certifying authority;
reading into the electronic device a certified digital document associated with a user;
and
generating on behalf of the CA a new certified digital document based on the read certified digital document and issuing policy.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein information associated with an identity of the electronic device or its user is stored within the electronic device.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the issuing policy attests to personal identifying information of the user.
17. The method of claim 14, wherein the new certified digital document is output by the electronic device through a communication channel.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein the certified digital documents are permits or certificates.

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19. The method of claim 14, wherein a person using the electronic device to sign or certify a digital document is requested to identify themselves prior to the electronic device signing or certifying the digital document.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein a user identifies themselves using biometric identification information.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein a plurality of certified digital documents associated with the user is stored within the electronic device, each of which plurality of certified digital documents is associated with a different certifying authority.

22. An electronic device adapted to act as a representative of a certifying authority comprising:

a controller adapted to execute a program associated with the certifying authority based on a document issuing policy of the certifying authority, reads a certified digital document associated with a user, and based on the certified digital document generates a new digital document in accordance with the document issuing policy.

23. The electronic device according to claim 22, wherein the program generates the new certified digital document from a certified document associated with a user if data in the certified document is consistent with the document issuing policy.

24. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein the controller reads a digital document provided to the electronic device and signs or certifies the digital document only after the electronic device attests to personal identifying information of the user.

25. The electronic device of claim 24, further comprising a biometric data input module.

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26. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein a plurality of certified documents associated with the user are stored within the electronic device, each of the plurality of certified documents is associated with a different certifying authority.

27. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein the electronic device is functionally associated with a wristwatch.

28. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein the electronic device is functionally associated with a smart card.